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May 26, 2021

Shelly Nellesen  
Contaminated Sites Section  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
502 East 9th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Ms Nellesen:

The Jackson County Historical Society would like to request a meeting with the appropriate people at the IDNR to discuss the status of the Clinton Engines site in Maquoketa, Iowa.

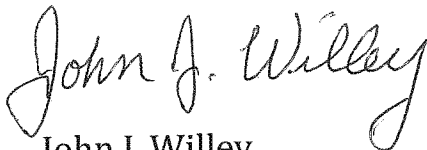
Currently, the Administration Building, owned by the JCHS, is restricted from allowing pregnant women to enter the premises denoting the presence of Trichlorethylene (TCE) in the air. All requirements from the IDNR, such as closing off a sub-basement, properly sealing all cracks and seams in the lower level floors with a special epoxy, and painting the area with an epoxy sealer, as well as installing larger and more efficient air exchangers, have been completed. Air quality tests performed by Impact 7G in the fall of 2020 and the spring of 2021 have found no trace of TCE or any other harmful substances in our building. We therefore ask that all restrictions on this building be removed and that it be certified as safe for everyone.

In addition, we are joining with the City in requesting that the Clinton Engines Site as a whole be given a "NO FURTHER ACTION" status. The site is owned in part by the City, in part by the Historical Society. If that were to occur, the Society would hope to make arrangements with the City of Maquoketa, for a long term arrangement enabling us to construct a wildflower and prairie grass exhibit on their portion of the property. The EPA has given its blessing, saying that such a use of the Brownfield site would be not only appropriate, but beneficial to the improvement of the ground. It would be used for educational purposes as well. Currently, there is an opportunity for us to receive a grant from "Seed a Legacy" for enough free seed to plant this entire area making it a high quality pollinator habitat for bees and butterflies.

In short, our entire community is interested in bringing this matter to a satisfactory conclusion so that we can move on. The expense of running air exchangers at a 24/7 capacity when perhaps shorter periods of time would prove effective while lowering the Society's overhead would be a great help. And the constant cost of repeated testing is a burden to our members as well as the local taxpayers.

Please take this matter into consideration and advise us as to how we can proceed.

Most respectfully,



John J. Willey  
President, JCHS



Bonnie Mitchell  
Curator, JCHS